

sets, with the inner ends of the inner leads 33 of each set each being integrally connected to a common connecting portion 44. Additionally, as seen in Figure 3C, a portion of the top surface of each inner lead 33 is recessed so as to define a thin plate portion 33a which extends to the corresponding connecting portion 44.

In their current form, independent Claims 24 and 28 each recite:

*... a peripheral tie bar; and*

*a plurality of leads extending from the tie bar in isolation from each other and segregated into two sets, the leads of each set being linearly aligned and arranged in spaced, generally parallel relation to each other such that each of the leads of one set extends in opposed relation to a respective one of the leads of the remaining set...*

Applicant respectfully submits that at least the aforementioned features from each of Claims 24 and 28 are not satisfied by the leadframe 32 described in the Asano et al. reference. In the subject Office Action, the Examiner correlates the tie bar 43 shown in Figures 3A and 3B of the Asano et al. reference to the tie bar recited in Claims 24 and 28, with the inner leads 33 of the Asano et al. reference being correlated to the leads recited in Claims 24 and 28. However, Applicant notes that the inner leads 33 of the Asano et al. reference, though extending from the tie bar 43, do not extend from such tie bar 43 in isolation from each other. Rather, the explicit teaching of the Asano et al. reference is that within the leadframe 32, the inner ends of the inner leads 33 of each set are each integrally connected to a respective, common connecting portion 44, and are thus clearly do not extend in isolation from each other.

Moreover, in the Asano et al. reference, the inner leads 33 of each set are not linearly aligned and arranged in spaced, generally parallel relation to each other such that each of the inner leads 33 of one set extends in opposed relation to a respective one of the inner leads 33 of another set. Rather, as is readily apparent from Figures 3A and 3B of the Asano et al. reference, though the inner leads 33 are segregated into multiple sets, none of the inner leads 33 of any set extend in spaced, generally parallel relation to each other. Rather, the inner leads 33 of each set are bent at different angles, and are clearly not parallel. Further, due to the inner leads 33 of each set being bent at differing angles, they are not linearly aligned, nor do they extend in opposed relation to respective ones of the inner leads 33 of another set.

Moreover, it is noted that independent Claim 28, in its current form, recites:

*... a notched surface which is disposed in opposed relation to the top side and extends to the inner end...*

In the subject Office Action, in rejecting Claim 24, the Examiner correlates the step portion 33a shown in Figures 3B and 3C of the Asano et al. reference to the notched surface feature of Claim 24 which is described as being disposed in opposed relation to the bottom side of the lead and extending to the inner end thereof. However, in the rejection of Claim 28, the Examiner again relies on the step portion 33a as satisfying the feature of the notched surface which is described as being disposed in opposed relation to the top side of the lead and extending to the inner end thereof. Applicant respectfully submits that the step portion 33a cannot satisfy the notched surface feature of both Claims 24 and 28. In this regard, if the step portion 33a is deemed to satisfy the notched surface feature of Claim 24 which is described as being disposed in opposed relation to the bottom side of the lead, it is improper to also construe such step portion 33a as being disposed in opposed relation to the top side of the lead for purposes of satisfying the notched surface feature of Claim 28. Conversely, if the step portion 33a is deemed to satisfy the notched surface feature of Claim 28 which is described as being disposed in opposed relation to the top side of the lead, it cannot also satisfy the notched surface feature of Claim 24 which is described as being disposed in opposed relation to the bottom side of the lead.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 24 and 28 are not anticipated by the Asano et al. reference and are in condition for allowance, as are Claims 25-27 and 29-31 as being dependent upon respective allowable independent claims.

*Independent Claim 14 is Not Rendered Obvious by the Combination of the Lee and Huang et al. References:*

Referring now to the Section 103(a) rejection of Claims 14-23, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 14 in its current form is not rendered obvious by the combination of the Lee and Huang et al. references. In Claim 14 in its current form, the semiconductor package is described as comprising:

*... a leadframe comprising a plurality of leads segregated into two sets, the leads of each set being linearly aligned and arranged in spaced, generally parallel*

*relation to each other such that each of the leads of one set extends in opposed relation to a respective one of the leads of the remaining set...*

Applicant notes that at least the aforementioned feature of Claim 1 is not satisfied by the Lee reference which suffers from the same deficiency discussed above in relation to the Asano et al. reference. In the subject Office Action, the Examiner correlates the inner leads 6 of the Lee reference to the leads recited in Claim 14. However, Applicant notes that the inner leads 6 of the Lee reference are not linearly aligned and arranged in spaced, generally parallel relation to each other such that each of the inner leads 6 of one set extends in opposed relation to a respective one of the inner leads 6 of another set. Rather, as is readily apparent from Figure 5 of the Lee reference, though the inner leads 6 are segregated into multiple sets, none of the inner leads 6 of any set extend in spaced, generally parallel relation to each other. Rather, the inner leads 6 of each set are bent at different angles, and are clearly not parallel. Further, due to the inner leads 6 of each set being bent at differing angles, they are not linearly aligned, nor do they extend in opposed relation to respective ones of the inner leads 6 of another set.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 14 is not rendered obvious by the combination of the Lee and Huang et al. references, and is in condition for allowance, as are Claims 15-23 as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

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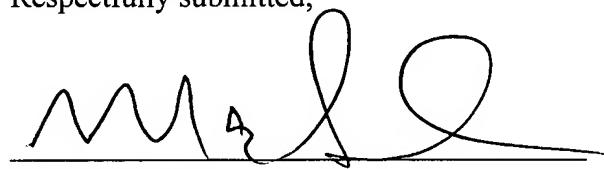
On the basis of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the stated grounds of rejection have been overcome, and that Claims 14-31 are now in condition for allowance. An early notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

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